

Election of Species:


The Examiner further requested election of a species disclosed in claims 2, 11, 13, 17, 20, 25, 30, 32, 35, 38, 43, 45, 52, 56, 61, 65, 69, 70, 72, 73, 77, 81, 83, 84, and 88. The relevant claims for the provisionally chosen Group IV are 25, 30 and 38. In response to the requirement for election of species, applicants elect **N-vinyl lactam** as a species of hydrophilic monomer from claim 25; **ethylene-vinylacetate copolymers** as a species of film-forming polymer from claim 30 and the water-soluble polymer species recited in claim 38, wherein **R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen; SC is a poly(alkylene oxide) side chain containing 4 alkylene oxide units; L¹ is -(CO)-O- and p* is a hydroxyl group.**

Applicants note that this election of species is for the sole purpose of the Examiner's initial search and examination, and that upon allowance of a generic claim, all species encompassed by that claim will then be examined.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this communication, or would like to discuss the application, the art, or other pertinent matters, he is welcome to contact the undersigned attorney at (650) 330-0900.

Respectfully submitted,

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